

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the title on the cover page with the following amended title:

~~BLOCK~~ BLACK BOX TESTING IN MULTI-TIER APPLICATION ENVIRONMENTS

Please replace the title on page 1 with the following amended title:

~~BLOCK~~ BLACK BOX TESTING IN MULTI-TIER APPLICATION ENVIRONMENTS

Please replace the first paragraph on page 1, under the section "TECHNICAL FIELD" with the following amended paragraph:

Embodiments of the present invention relate to ~~block~~ black box testing in multi-tier application environments.

Please replace the first paragraph on page 3 with the following amended paragraph:

Thus a need exists for ~~block~~ black box testing in multi-tier application environments. A further need exists for ~~block~~ black box testing in multi-tier application environments which enables testing of individual tiers. A still further need exists to meet the previously identified needs in a manner that is complimentary and compatible with conventional computer system testing systems and processes.

Please replace the first paragraph, under the section "SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION" on page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

Embodiments of the present invention provide for ~~block~~ black box testing in multi-tier application environments. Further embodiments of the present invention provide ~~block~~ black box testing in multi-tier application environments which enables testing individual tiers. Still

further embodiments of the present invention meet the previously identified need in a manner that is complimentary and compatible with conventional computer system testing systems and processes.

Please replace the second paragraph, under the section “SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION” on page 4 with the following amended paragraph:

A method of ~~black~~ black box testing in multi-tier application environments is disclosed. A multi-tier application is divided into a plurality of tier-specific modules. Each of the plurality of tier-specific modules is tested as a black box. Output from testing a tier-specific module can be stored in a computer usable media. Output from a first tier-specific module of the plurality of tier-specific modules can be used as input to a subsequent tier-specific module. Absent actual output, simulated input can be used to test tier-specific modules.

Please replace the third paragraph, under the section “BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS” on page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 3 illustrates a method of ~~black~~ black box testing in multi-tier application environments, in accordance with embodiments of the present invention.

Please replace the fourth paragraph, under the section “BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS” on page 5 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 4 illustrates a flow chart for a method of ~~black~~ black box testing in multi-tier application environments, in accordance with embodiments of the present invention.

Please replace the first paragraph, under the section “BEST MODES FOR CARRYING OUT THE INVENTION” on page 6 with the following amended paragraph:

In the following detailed description of the present invention, ~~block~~ black box testing in multi-tier application environments, numerous specific details are set forth in order to provide a thorough understanding of the present invention. However, it will be recognized by one skilled in the art that the present invention may be practiced without these specific details or with equivalents thereof. In other instances, well-known methods, procedures, components, and circuits have not been described in detail as not to unnecessarily obscure aspects of the present invention.

Please replace the title of the invention on page 8 with the following amended title:

~~BLOCK~~ BLACK BOX TESTING IN MULTI-TIER APPLICATION ENVIRONMENTS

Please replace the second paragraph on page 10 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 3 is an exemplary illustration of a novel method of ~~block~~ black box testing in multi-tier application environments, in accordance with embodiments of the present invention. Multi-tier application 200 (Figure 2) has been divided into separate modules 310, 320 and 330. Module 310 operates on a web tier, e.g., web tier 120 of Figure 1. Module 320 operates on an application tier, e.g., application tier 130 of Figure 1. Module 330 operates on a database tier, e.g., database tier 140 of Figure 1. It is to be appreciated that embodiments in accordance with the present invention are well suited to dividing an application into greater or fewer modules.

Please replace the second paragraph on page 13 with the following amended paragraph:

Figure 4 illustrates a flow chart for a method 400 of ~~block~~ black box testing in multi-tier application environments, in accordance with embodiments of the present invention. In block

410, a multi-tier application, e.g., application 200 of Figure 2 is divided into tier-specific modules, e.g., tier-specific modules 310, 320 and 330 of Figure 3. Generally, the tier-specific modules operate within a specific tier, e.g., a database tier 140 of Figure 1.

Please replace the second paragraph on page 15 with the following amended paragraph:

Embodiments of the present invention provide for ~~block~~ black box testing in multi-tier application environments. Further embodiments of the present invention provide block box testing in multi-tier application environments which enables reinstallation test systems and rebooting of operating systems during testing. Still further embodiments of the present invention meet the previously identified need in a manner that is complimentary and compatible with conventional computer system testing systems and processes.

Please replace the third paragraph on page 15 with the following amended paragraph:

Embodiments in accordance with the present invention, ~~block~~ black box testing in multi-tier application environments, are thus described. While the present invention has been described in particular embodiments, it should be appreciated that the present invention should not be construed as limited by such embodiments, but rather construed according to the below claims.

Please replace the title on page 21 with the following amended title:

~~BLOCK~~ BLACK BOX TESTING IN MULTI-TIER APPLICATION ENVIRONMENTS

Please replace the first paragraph on page 21 with the following amended paragraph:

A method of ~~block~~ black box testing in multi-tier application environments. A multi-tier application is divided into a plurality of tier-specific modules. Each of the plurality of tier-

specific modules is tested as a black box. Output from testing a tier-specific module can be stored in a computer usable media. Output from a first tier-specific module of the plurality of tier-specific modules can be used as input to a subsequent tier-specific module. Absent actual output, simulated input can be used to test tier-specific modules.